(f) to (h) The drugs are purchased after due inspections and testing of the standard quality as per the specifications. All the purchases are made through the Central Purchase Organisation of the DGS&D according to the established purchase procedure.

Purchase of Sera and Vaccines for Immunisation Programme

842. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of Sera and Vaccines being purchased by Government for Immunisation Programme;

(b) whether it is a fact that Sera and Vaccines purchased by Government are of poor and sub-standard quality;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are purchasing these vaccines without testing the quality;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Antigens, Serums and Vaccines loose potency during transport and delivery;

(e) what were the number of batches of each of these Sera and Vaccines tested during the last 3 years and how many were found to be of sub-standard quality; and

(f) names of manufacturers from whom each sera and vaccine was purchased during last 3 years and what was the basis under which each order was placed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) No Sera is in Immunization Programme. DPT, DT, TT, BCG, Polio, Typhoid and Measles vaccines are purchased for use in Expanded Programme on Immunization.

(b) No.

(c) All Vaccine Manufacturing Institutes are licenced by the Drug Control authorities. Before such licences are granted under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act 1940 and Rules framed thereunder, all requirements such as standard, quality control, sterility, potency, abnormal toxicity and safety etc., are complied with before release of the vaccines for use.

(d) Vaccines are thermolabile products and are required to be transported under proper cold-chan to avoid loss of potency.

(e) Government of India are purchasing vaccines from reputed manufacturing Institutes. All batches of vaccines are tested by production institutes before release. However, in pase of doubt vaccines are subjected to quality control test at Central Research Institute, Kasauli (C.R.I.)

(f) DPT, DT, TT are purchased from Central Research Institute, Kasauli, Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, Haffkine Bio-Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd., Bombay and Institute of Preventive Medicine, Hyderabed (all Public Sector units) and, also from Serum Institute of India, Pune, in the Private sector. The requirements of Typhoid and BCG vaccines were met by Central Research Institute, Kasauli and B.C.G. Vaccine Laboratory, Madras. Entire requirement of Polio Vaccines were almost ment by the Haffkine Bio-Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd., Bombay (an Enterprise of the Maharashtra Government) from the imported bulk. Only small quantity was procured during 1985-86 through DG S&D.

The requirements of Measles vaccine are met through import by UNICEF as commodity assistance.

The vaccines are allocated to various States|U.Ts. on the basis of annual targets and number of beneficiaries to be covered.